

A Summer Food Service Program Success Story



Maria Jackson and her staff at Toltec Elementary School in Eloy, Arizona were one of three recipients of the 2011 Desert Oasis Award for their efforts in offering an exceptional Summer Food Service Program. In order to appeal to the community and increase participation in the SFSP, a theme was chosen for each day meals were served. Simple prizes, activities, and decorations related to the day's theme were planned for the participants to enjoy. Parents, kids, and staff were involved in donating prizes, setting up events and joining in the fun.

Their biggest hit was the 50's Flashback Day complete with music, costumes, a hula hoop contest, and dancing. "This was all done for our community to enjoy and to let them know that we still care even though school was out for the summer. The staff had just as much fun planning and participating with the community as the kids did! We are already planning for SFSP 2012," Jackson commented. So get creative with your ideas and consider including activities such as coloring pages, puzzles, or movies to help entice community participation as you plan your Summer Food Service Program this year. Maybe this could be your year for a Desert Oasis Award!

